Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Moving to the U.S. Constitution Notes

American Colonists broke away from England because:

They claimed that their *natural rights* were being violated by the King of

England.

**Tyranny:** cruel or oppressive government rule

Americans set up the Articles of Confederation, but it had a weak central government.

Why was it set up that way?

Because Americans feared giving too much power to the central

government would invite another tyrant to abuse power.

**Separation of Powers:** splitting government into different branches

**Checks and Balances:** a system that prevents any one branch of government from becoming too powerful

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| Words to Define  **Impeach:** accuse and charge with misconduct  (from Period 6) **Unconstitutional:** goes against the language of the Constitution  (from Period 6) **Commerce:** having to do with the economy |